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Agenda item 71 (h)

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Australia, Belarus, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, India, Jamaica, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Slovakia, Sri Lanka and Turkey: revised draft resolution

International arms transfers

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 43/75 I of 7 December 1988, 46/36 H of 6 December 1991 and 47/54 A of 9 December 1992, and its decisions 45/415 of 4 December 1990 and 47/419 of 9 December 1992,

Realizing the urgent need to resolve underlying conflicts, to diminish tensions and to accelerate efforts towards general and complete disarmament with a view to maintaining regional and international peace and security in a world free from the scourge of war and the burden of armaments,

Reaffirming the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament and the commitment of Member States to take concrete steps in order to strengthen that role,

Recognizing that in the context of international arms transfers, illicit arms traffic is a disturbing, dangerous and increasingly common phenomenon, and that with the technical sophistication and destructive capability of conventional weapons, the destabilizing effects of illicit arms traffic increase,

Considering that in the context of international arms transfers, illicit arms traffic, by its clandestine nature, defies transparency and until now has escaped inclusion within the United Nations Conventional Arms Register,

Realizing that arms obtained through the illicit arms traffic are most likely to be used for violent purposes, and that even small arms so obtained, directly or indirectly, by underground organizations, such as mercenary groups can pose a danger to the security and political stability of the States affected,

Stressing that effective control over the imports and exports of conventional weapons falls under the responsibility of Member States,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General; 1/

2. Calls upon all Member States to give priority to eradicating the illicit arms traffic associated with destabilizing activities, such as terrorism, drug trafficking and common criminal acts, and to take immediate action towards this end;

3. Urges Member States to monitor effectively arms transfers, to strengthen or adopt strict measures in an effort to prevent that arms fall into the hands of parties engaged in the illicit arms traffic;

4. Requests the Disarmament Commission, at its organizational session in 1993, to include the issue of international arms transfers, with particular reference to resolution 46/36 H of 6 December 1991 in the agenda of its substantive session in 1994 and, to report on the issue to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session;

5. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-ninth session a new item entitled "International illicit arms traffic".

1/ A/48/324.